

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 6**

**Introduced by Senator Morrow**

**(Coauthors: Senators Battin, Bowen, Campbell, Cedillo, Chesbro, Cox, Denham, Ducheny, Dutton, Kuehl, Margett, and Runner)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Benoit, Bermudez, Bogh, Canciamilla, Daucher, DeVore, Evans, Gordon, Huff, Jones, La Malfa, La Suer, Leslie, Liu, Maze, Mountjoy, Nakanishi, Pavley, Plescia, Tran, Villines, Wyland, and Yee)**

January 6, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6— Relative to the 60th anniversary of the World War II invasion of the Island of Iwo Jima.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 6, as amended, Morrow. Military and veterans: World War II invasion of Iwo Jima.

This measure would commemorate the 60th anniversary of the World War II invasion of the Island of Iwo Jima, the day the United States Marine Corps *and Navy* landed on the fortified beaches of Iwo Jima in opposition to the Japanese Empire, and would urge the people of California to honor the men of the United States who fought and died in the bloodiest battle ever fought by the U.S. Marine Corps in the pursuit of freedom and a just peace.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, February 19, 2005, marks the 60th anniversary of
- 2 the World War II invasion of the Island of Iwo Jima; and
- 3 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1945, 72,000 U.S. Marines
- 4 assaulted heavily fortified Iwo Jima Island and engaged in the
- 5 bloodiest battle the United States Marine Corps has ever fought.

1 More than 6,000 Marines and ~~200 U.S. Navy men~~ 900 Navy  
2 *Corpsmen and other Navy personnel* were killed, and ~~more than~~  
3 ~~18,000 Marines were wounded~~ nearly 24,000 servicemen  
4 *suffered casualties* in the battle to seize ~~bomber~~ air strips in  
5 support of the strategic air war against the Japanese Empire; and

6 WHEREAS, Major General Harry Schmidt lead the largest  
7 contingent of Marines ever to fight a battle. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th  
8 Marine Divisions, supported by Force Troops units, provided the  
9 landing force, the United States Navy delivered powerful  
10 broadsides against the Japanese caves and pillboxes, and two  
11 squadrons of Marine F-4U Corsairs swept in low, unleashing  
12 rockets and machine gun bullets against the Rock Quarry; and

13 WHEREAS, When the Japanese army began the bloodiest  
14 bombardment the Marines ever suffered in the World War II, the  
15 Marines did not panic; the veterans in the ranks steadied the  
16 rookies, junior officers took over for fallen leaders, and shot-up  
17 units merged quickly to maintain the attack. A veteran Marine  
18 combat correspondent reported: “At Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian,  
19 I saw Marines killed and wounded in a shocking manner, but I  
20 saw nothing like the ghastliness that hung over the Iwo  
21 beachhead”; and

22 WHEREAS, On the fourth day of the battle, Lieutenant Harold  
23 Schrier’s combat patrol reached the top of Mount Suribachi and  
24 raised a 54-by-28 inch American flag. Several hours later a  
25 larger flag was erected, and Associated Press photographer Joe  
26 Rosenthal immortalized the second flag-raising scene in the  
27 heralded picture that won the Pulitzer Prize and was reproduced  
28 around the world as a symbol of Marine fighting tenacity and  
29 skill during World War II. However, raising the flag represented  
30 only the “end of the beginning,” as the bloody battle would rage  
31 on without respite for another month; and

32 WHEREAS, Iwo Jima took such a toll on leaders that junior  
33 officers and enlisted men assumed roles of responsibility  
34 unimaginable in garrison. The ratio of 1.25 Marine casualties  
35 (killed, wounded, missing) for every Japanese killed was the  
36 highest in the war. It was the first and only time a Marine landing  
37 force suffered greater casualties than they inflicted on the  
38 defending garrison; and

39 WHEREAS, Major General Graves Erskine stated at the  
40 dedication of his 3rd Marine Division cemetery at Iwo Jima after

1 the battle: “Victory was never in doubt. Its cost was. What was in  
2 doubt was whether there would be any of us left to dedicate our  
3 cemetery at the end, or whether the last Marine would die  
4 knocking out the last Japanese gunner.” Admiral Chester  
5 Nimitz’s accolade endured longest, now chiseled into the granite  
6 base of the enormous bronze statue of the Suribachi Marines and  
7 their faithful corpsman at Arlington Cemetery: “Uncommon  
8 valor was a common virtue...”; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
10 *thereof concurring,* That in recognition of the historic 60th  
11 Anniversary of the World War II invasion of the Island of Iwo  
12 Jima on February 19, 1945, the Legislature of the State of  
13 California recognizes and honors the thousands of veterans of the  
14 United States Marine Corps *and Navy* who served their country  
15 so valiantly and distinguished themselves above the call of duty,  
16 and recognizes the integral part they played in helping the Allies  
17 to victory in World War II; and be it further

18 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.